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ANNFIELD PLAIN  
URBAN DISTRICT  
— COUNCIL. —

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MEDICAL  
OFFICER'S  
REPORT,

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FOR ————  
———YEAR———  
———1909.

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HARPERLEY,

FEBRUARY 8th, 1910.

TO THE ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present your Council with my report upon the condition of the district in respect to the Factory and Workshops Act, Sanitary State, Amount of Sickness, and Vital Statistics for the year 1909. The chief industry of the district is coal-mining, and every other industry is practically depending upon it for its existence. The past year has been a fairly prosperous one and your Board has not been called upon to give any assistance to workmen out of employment.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

This Act provides for the comfort of the Workmen, as regards air, space, ready means of exit, and sanitary accessories, and it devolves upon the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector, to see it is carried out. There are nine Factories and Twenty-one Workshops in the district. Inspection shewed that the Act had been carefully carried out, nothing of an objectionable character was discovered. No material injurious to health is used in any of the above Works.

SURVEYOR'S AND INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

NEW HOUSES. The New Houses erected during the course of the year consisted of 114 self-contained and 2 tenemented houses. The two latter contained 3 rooms each, and of the former, 49 were 5-roomed houses, and 65 contained 4 rooms each. Of the above 45 had Water Closets, and the remainder had Ash Closets, adapted for weekly cleansing.

**OLD PROPERTY.** The number of Old Houses closed during the year made a total of 22 ; of this number 16 were wooden erections situated at South Pontop, some of which latter were removed to be replaced by modern erections, the plans for which had been passed by your Council. During the course of the past year, I reported to your Board several blocks of Property that were unfit for habitation, viz ,

**WESTON'S HOUSES.** Consisting of 3 tenements, each house has only one entrance, and is therefore deficient in ventilation. The walls, floors and roofs are all defective, and their pantries are not fit for the storage of food. The water is not laid on to these houses, and the out-office accommodation is very defective—there being only one out-office for 3 families—and the ashpit is uncovered.

**BEATTIE'S HOUSES.** This is a block of nondescript dwellings. Out of the seven, three are unfit for human habitation, and should be closed as their rooms are small and damp through being below the ground level, and there ventilation leaves much to be desired.

**WILKINSON'S BUILDINGS.** Two of these houses are below the ground level and are very damp. The walls and floors are defective and there is a lack of ventilation. (They have since being closed) The three houses opposite, belonging to the South Medomsley Colliery Company, are in a very similar condition, being damp and without through ventilation.

**EDWARD'S BUILDINGS** These houses are really the back premises of two cottages at Edward's Buildings. There kitchens are exceedingly small and they have no pantries. The upper rooms are reached by step ladders. These houses should either be closed or restored to the rooms in front. The condition of the above properties was described in greater detail to your Board last August. In my opinion, they are unfit at present for habitation, and ought to be closed. In addition to the property already mentioned, I might bring to your notice, the following :

**DOWLAIS COTTAGES.** This block of buildings ought to be provided with back doors to give better ventilation. The out-offices are deficient.

**LILY COTTAGES.** These are mostly wooden erections, and through lack of attention are getting into a most unsatisfactory condition. Repairs are required both inside and out. The out-offices are too few in number, and are badly constructed, and channels and proper paths to the doors are needed. Other alterations could be effected to make these houses more comfortable. The old properties at Flint Hill, Hill Top, Dipton and Kyo under the attention of your Inspector, require overhauling, and their various defective parts put into better condition. I may say that a great deal of attention has been paid to the above defects; a large number of notices have been served, but the number of improvements and remedies carried out is not as great as it should be. Among the improvements carried out to the workmen's cottages during the year, White-le-Head, Greencroft and South Pontop are worthy of note.

**SEWERS.** Practically the whole of the district is well sewered and the sewage empties into two outfall works, one at Kyo and the other at Dipton. With regard to the first, it has been for nearly two years, undergoing considerable enlargement, to deal with the increased buildings at New Kyo. At the present time, the sewage is only partially purified, and is in a state of fermentation when it passes out of the works. It is arrested at two depressions at Harperley, causing considerable unpleasantness due to the smell at both receptacles. It is to be hoped that your Board will use more expedition to have the enlargement of the works completed. In connection with the other outfall works at Dipton, a great amount of sewage is to be directed to these works from South Medomsley, and considerably increased filtering is been provided.

Scavenging and Removal of Refuse is done by contract, and the contract provides for effectual cleansing at least once a week.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES** These are ten in number, and are kept in very good order. Occasional visits are paid to them by your Inspector and myself, and we at odd times visit them while slaughtering is in progress. There is no Inspector with a certificate for meat inspection. I have received no information with regard to tubercular meat.

**OUT-OFFICES.** More up-to-date sanitary arrangements are still being substituted for the old insanitary privies and ashpits. In eight instances, Water Closets were introduced and Ash Closets have been substituted in 31 instances. This refers to old property. In the cases of modern houses, the out-offices, &c, have to be approved by your Authority before erection

**OVERCROWDING** The prosperity of the district is well maintained and there is a demand for one type of labour—but nevertheless, overcrowding is not common

**MILK SUPPLY.** The suppliers of milk are either farmers or dealers occupying a piece of land. In most instances the byres are satisfactory, and the cows are not entirely stall-fed. In no instance has tubercle come under notice.

Water Supply is abundant and of excellent quality.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The number of Notifiable Diseases reported during the past year amounted to 118 consisting the following, viz., 80 of Scarlatina, 15 of Diphtheria, 12 of Enteric Fever, and 11 of Erysipelas

**SCARLATINA.** The number of cases shewed an increase of 16 on the previous year. The greatest number occurred at the beginning of the year, but was never epidemic.

DIPHTHERIA did not spread seriously. The fifteen cases which occurred extended over the whole year

ENTERIC FEVER. There were 12 cases of this disease, and with the exception of 4 which occurred in one house, the cases were spread over all the year. They seemed to be isolated cases, having no connection with one another. There was no evidence to shew the source of infection. Of the 118 cases eligible for Hospital treatment, only 58 were transferred to that Institution. As complete isolation in most cases is not possible, prompt removal to the Hospital would no doubt help to prevent the spread of disease.

#### NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

MEASLES invaded the district on two occasions during the year, the first occasion being in May and the second in November. During the first invasion, it was considered advisable to close the R.C Schools and the Mixed Schools at Dipton; and on the second, the Kyo and Annfield Plain Infant Schools.

WHOOPING COUGH. There were a few isolated cases, but none ended fatally.

DIARRHŒA and EPIDEMIC ENTERITIS were prevalent during the summer months and resulted in nine deaths.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of Births and Deaths registered during the year amounted to 584 of the former and 218 of the latter, giving a birth-rate of 36.05 and a death-rate of 13.46 per 1,000, estimating the population at the end of June at 16,200. The birth-rate is slightly lower, and the death-rate considerably lower than those of last year. As compared with the County, the birth-rate for your district is higher and the death-rate lower. Infantile mortality shows a marked improvement on last year, and is much below the average of the County. Constitutional diseases still cause a large number of the deaths of infants.

The following table shows how the various rates of this district compare with those of the County.

			County.	Annfield Plain.
Birth-rate	(per 1,000 population)	...	35·5	36·05
Death-rate	" " "	...	15·7	13·46
Zymotic death-rate	" "	...	1·61	1·48
Infantile Mortality	(per 1000 births)	...	124	113·01
Small-Pox	(per 1,000 population)	...	nil	nil
Scarlet Fever	" " "	...	0·09	0·12
Diphtheria	" " "	...	0·17	0·24
Enteric Fever	" " "	...	0·12	0·18
Measles	" " "	...	0·37	0·24
Whooping Cough	" " "	...	0·25	nil
Diarrhœa	" " "	...	0·59	0·55
Phthisis	" " "	...	0·91	0·61
Other Tubercular Diseases	" "	...	0·73	0·68
Acute Respiratory diseases	"	...	2·38	2·84

For particulars, see Government Schedules attached.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant.

**T. BENSON,**

Medical Officer.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
ANNFIELD PLAIN.



Table 1.

## ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

## Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous Years,

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.						Total DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Deaths of ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.		Number	Rate.			Number	Rate.
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number	Rate.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1899	12,100	442	35.5	75	169.6	192	16			10	202	16.8	
1900	12,300	472	39	85	180	223	18			6	229	18.5	
1901	12,500	523	41.8	86	162.5	229	18.3				229	18.3	
1902	12,700	523	40	79	151	210	16.5			12	222	17.5	
1903	13,100	510	38.9	89	174.5	232	17.7			13	245	18.7	
1904	13,500	524	38.4	83	158.4	238	17.6			11	249	18.5	
1905	14,000	485	34.6	94	193.8	213	15.2			10	223	15.9	
1906	14,600	533	36.5	97	181.9	233	15.9			8	241	16.5	
1907	15,200	514	33.8	73	142	210	13.8			21	231	15.2	
1908	15,800	582	36.83	83	142.6	222	14.04			21	243	15.31	
Averages for years 1899-1908.	13,586	510	37.53	84	165.6	220	16.3			11	231	17.12	
1909	16,200	584	36.05	66	113.01	200	12.34			18	218	13.46	

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), }  
 3475

Total population at all ages 12481  
 Number of inhabited houses 2271  
 Average number of persons per house 5.5

At Census of 1901.

**Table III.**

**ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT,**

**Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1909,**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of cases removed to hospital from each locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upward	
Small-pox ...								
Cholera ..								
Diphtheria (in- cluding Mem- branous croup	15		7	8				5
Erysipelas ..	11	1			1	8	1	
Scarlet fever ...	80	2	33	42	3			42
Typhus fever...								
Enteric fever ...	12		1	6	1	4		11
Relapsing fever								
Continued fever								
Puerperal fever								
Plague ...								
Totals ...	118	3	41	56	5	12	1	58

Isolation Hospital at Tanfield.

Total available beds 74.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 4 or 5.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—

Nil.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—

Tanfield Hospital, Lanchester Union. County Asylum.

Small-Pox Hospital at Maiden Law, now used as a Sanatorium.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District—NIL.

Table IV.

## ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

## Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths whether of Residents or non- Residents in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	
Small-pox ... ..								
Measles ... ..	4	2	2					
Scarlet fever ... ..	2		1	1				
Whooping-cough ... ..								
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup ... ..	4		3	1				
Croup ... ..	2	1	1					
Fever { Typhus ... ..								
{ Enteric ... ..	3			1		2		
{ Other contin'd								
Epidemic influenza ... ..								
Cholera ... ..								
Plague... ..								
Diarrhœa ... ..	9	8	1					
Enteritis ... ..	4	4						
Gastritis ... ..								
Puerperal fever ... ..								
Erysipelas ... ..								
Phthisis (Pulmonary ... ..								
Tuberculosis) ... ..	10			2	1	7		
Other tubercular diseases ... ..	11	4	4	2		1		
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	5					3	2	
Bronchitis ... ..	23	8	3		1	3	8	
Pneumonia ... ..	18	6	6	2		3	1	
Pleurisy ... ..	1						1	
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs ... ..	4		1	1		1	1	
Alcoholism ... ..								
Cirrhosis of liver) ... ..	2					2		
Venereal diseases ... ..	1					1		
Premature birth ... ..	7	7						
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	3				1	2		
Heart diseases ... ..	11					8	3	
Accidents ... ..	4		1	1	1	1		
Suicides ... ..								
All other causes ... ..	9	26	10	5	1	21	28	
All causes ... ..	218	66	33	16	4	55	44	

THOMAS BENSON, *Medical Officer of Health*

February 8th, 1910.

Table V.

## ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

## Infantile Mortality during the year 1909.

## Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Years of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Yr.
All Causes	Certified	...	...																	
	Uncertified	...	...																	
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	...	...																	
	Chicken-pox	...	...																	
	Measles	...	...														1	1		2
	Scarlet Fever	...	...																	
	Diphtheria: Croup	...	...								1									1
	Whooping Cough	...	...																	
Diarrheal Diseases.	Diarrhœa, all forms	...	...						2	1	1		1	1			1	1		8
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	...	...						2							1	1			4
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...																	
	Premature Birth	...	...	4	1			5	2			1								7
Wasting Diseases.	Congenital Defects	...	...	2				2			1									3
	Injury at Birth	...	...																	
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation	...	...																	
	Atrophy, Debility	...	...																	
Tuberculous Diseases.	Marasmus	...	...	5	2			7	2	1	1	1						2		12
	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...									1								3
	Tuberculous Peritonitis	...	...													1				1
	Tuberculous Mesenterica	...	...																	
Other Causes.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...																	
	Erysipelas	...	...																	
	Syphilis	...	...																	
	Rickets	...	...																	
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...							1						1				2
	Convulsions	...	...	3				3	1			1								6
	Bronchitis	...	...	1				1	2	1		1				1	1	1	1	9
	Laryngitis	...	...																	
	Pneumonia	...	...			1	1					1	1			1	1			5
	Suffocation, overlaying...	...	...																	
	Other Causes	...	...	1				1								1				3
				16	3	1	1	20	11	4	2	7	2	1	2	5	5	5	2	66

Births in the year {legitimate 562.  
 {illegitimate 22.

Deaths in the year of {legitimate infants 62  
 {illegitimate " 4

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

***Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework***

**1.—INSPECTION.**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.		Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories ... ..	9	18	Nil.	Nil.
(Including Factory Laundries)				
Workshops ... ..	21	42	Nil	Nil.
(Including Workshop Laundries)				
Workplaces ... ..			Nil.	Nil.
Total	30	60		

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND.**

Nil.

**3.—HOME WORK.**

Nil.

**4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.**

Factories 9, Workshops 21    Total 30

**5.—OTHER MATTERS.**

Nil.

T. BENSON, *Medical Officer of Health.*

February 8th, 1910.

